

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

2-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A method for producing a protein having cyclo(D-lactyl-L-N-methyllleucyl-D-3-phenyllactyl-L-N-methyllleucyl-D-lactyl-L-N-methyllleucyl-D-3-phenyllactyl-L-N-methyllleucyl) (PF1022) synthetase activity, which comprises the steps of:

culturing a host cell transformed with a vector containing a nucleotide sequence under conditions suitable for protein expression, wherein the nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and which encodes a protein having PF1022 synthetase activity; and
- collecting the protein from the culture medium.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) An isolated protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- ~~(c) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and which encodes a protein having PF1022 synthetase activity.~~

16-17. (Canceled)